



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/ETHIOPIA RESILIENCE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Overview

Chronic poverty and recurrent shocks are driving many of the same Ethiopian communities into crisis year after year. From acute events like disease outbreaks, extreme weather, and conflict, to protracted issues such as weak governance, ethnic strife, and drought, severe shocks and longer-term stressors have both been increasing in frequency and duration.

Resilience is the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

USAID/Ethiopia's resilience-building portfolio is among the largest and most complex in the world. USAID support is strengthening households, communities, and systems through a systems-based, integrated approach to address the root causes of chronic vulnerability.

The **USAID/Ethiopia Resilience Learning Activity (RLA)** is a “learning sidecar” for USAID's resilience investments, working across USAID staff, offices, and implementing agencies (projects) to strengthen a culture of learning, sharing, evidence generation, substantiation, and triangulation.

Ultimately, our aim is to build a common understanding and direct investments in resilience-building strategies and interventions that demonstratively result in more resilient households, communities, and systems. RLA is a five-year learning project implemented by the US-based small business, [LINC](#), from 2022 to 2027.

Building a learning community through collective action

To generate learning, RLA is facilitating the collaboration, communication, and knowledge management for USAID and more than fifteen USAID implementing partner projects working to increase resilience across the highlands and lowlands of Ethiopia. Core among these projects are three Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSAs) and the Joint Emergency Operation Project (JEOP). Across all of our resilience partners, RLA facilitates the development of a portfolio-wide Resilience Learning Agenda, joint research and learning initiatives, communities of practice on deep-dive issues, and sharing to inform the adoption of new, innovative practices.

Strengthening the evidence base through triangulation and substantiation

USAID/Ethiopia and its resilience partners are operating in a data-rich environment. However, findings from the traditional midline and endline evaluations and studies are often too late or not fully internalized. Resilience partners require the tools, processes, and expertise to understand what's working now, identify tipping points, and layering opportunities so that they are able to adapt more quickly. RLA works hand-in-hand with resilience partners to augment their toolboxes with complexity-aware, systems-based monitoring, and rapid feedback research methods. We help partners to examine their impact through mixed-method, applied research approaches that are quick turnaround and low resource, offering further opportunity for triangulation and substantiation of the evidence base.



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